

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for screening for a modulator of ~~neurodegenerative diseases, or related diseases or disorders~~ of a translation product of a gene coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, said method comprising:

- (a) contacting a cell expressing a translation product of a gene coding for amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1 with a test compound;
- (b) measuring the level of a translation product of a gene coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (c) measuring the level of a translation product of a gene coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 in a control cell not contacted with said test compound; and
- (d) comparing the levels of the translation product in the cells of step (b) and (c), wherein an alteration in the level of the translation product in the contacted cells indicates that the test compound is a modulator of ~~said diseases or disorders~~ Alzheimer's disease.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of screening for a modulator of ~~neurodegenerative diseases, or related diseases or disorders~~ of a translation product of a gene coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, said method comprising:

- (a) administering a test compound to a test animal which is predisposed to developing or has already developed developing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease a neurodegenerative disease or related diseases or disorders in respect of the translation product;
- (b) measuring the level of the translation product;
- (c) measuring the level of the translation product in a matched control animal which is predisposed to developing or has already developed developing symptoms of a

~~neurodegenerative disease or related diseases or disorders~~ Alzheimer's disease in respect to the translation product and to which animal no such test compound has been administered;

- (d) comparing the level of the translation product in the animals of step (b) and (c), wherein an alteration in the level of the translation product in the test animal indicates that the test compound is a modulator of ~~said diseases or disorders~~ Alzheimer's disease.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said test animal and/or said control animal is a recombinant animal which expresses a gene coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under the control of a transcriptional control element which is not the native rab31 gene transcriptional control element, and wherein said gene comprises a modification which results in an altered expression of said gene.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said screening is for a modulator of the level of a protein molecule shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and wherein said modulator is a reagent or compound for preventing, or treating, or ameliorating ~~a neurodegenerative disease~~ Alzheimer's disease.

Claims 12-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said screening is for a modulator of the level of a protein molecule shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and wherein said modulator is a reagent or compound for preventing, or treating, or ameliorating ~~a neurodegenerative disease~~ Alzheimer's disease.

Claims 22-24 (Cancelled)